



Welcome to Noble County Highlights

2005 Edition

*Highlights of Noble County is a labor market information publication of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

This publication is provided annually for each of Indiana's 92 counties, 11 Economic Growth Regions and the State of Indiana.

Each publication includes a variety of demographic information: population, labor force estimates, industry employment, industry annual average wages, and firms and employment by size and by industry.

If you need further information about your area, you may call the regional analyst listed below. If you need labor market information for other areas, you will find a map of the regional analysts at the back of this publication and posted on our Internet website under *Resources*.

Additional labor market information is available on our Internet website.

Our website address is <http://www.in.gov/dwd/inews>

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Innovating Indiana: Strategic Research & Development Division



SUMMARY OF NOBLE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

Noble County's population estimate for 2004 was 47,297 up 2.2 percent from the 2000 Census total. During this same time period, Indiana's total 2004 estimated population of 6,237,569 was up by 2.6 percent.

According to the 2000 Census 22,086 people twenty-five years of age or over were high school graduates and/or had post-high school education. That represented 77.3 percent of the twenty-five and up county population. Of that population, 3,164 or 11.1 percent were four year college graduates or greater. In 2004, of the 481 persons graduating high school that year, 326 or 67.8 percent intended to go on to higher education.

A total of 5,544 workers or 20.6 percent of the workforce commuted into Noble County in 2003. DeKalb County was sending the most workers into the county. Conversely, 8,162 or 27.6 percent of the labor force commuted to work outside of Noble County. Allen County received the most workers from Noble County.

The estimated average unemployment rate for 2004 was 5.8 percent, above Indiana's annual average of 5.2 percent. The county's unemployment rate was based on an estimated average residential labor force of 23,510. Of that labor force 22,150 were employed and 1,360 were unemployed.

For the year 2004 there were 19,491 jobs at industries within the county. The largest employing industry in the county was manufacturing with 52 percent of the total industry employment. Education and health services (includes private and government employment) was second at 12.4 percent.

The industry showing the most growth in workers over a three year period (since 2001) was professional and business services increasing by 87 workers or 8.1 percent above 2001. 19.1 percent of employers in the county employed 20 or more workers and those represented 80.8 percent of all employment.

The all industry average 2004 earnings for the county was \$30,141 per year versus Indiana's \$34,693. The county average wage was an increase of 7.1 percent over the 2001 county industry average wage. None of Noble County's 11 industry supersectors (including government) had annual average earnings greater than the Indiana average for those industries. The county's manufacturing industry had the highest average earnings at \$36,415 per year, with construction second at \$32,326, while the industry with the lowest annual earnings number was leisure and hospitality services at \$9,597. The same industries statewide paid an average \$47,638, \$39,343, and \$13,875 per year, respectively.

POPULATION

NOBLE COUNTY AND CITY POPULATION

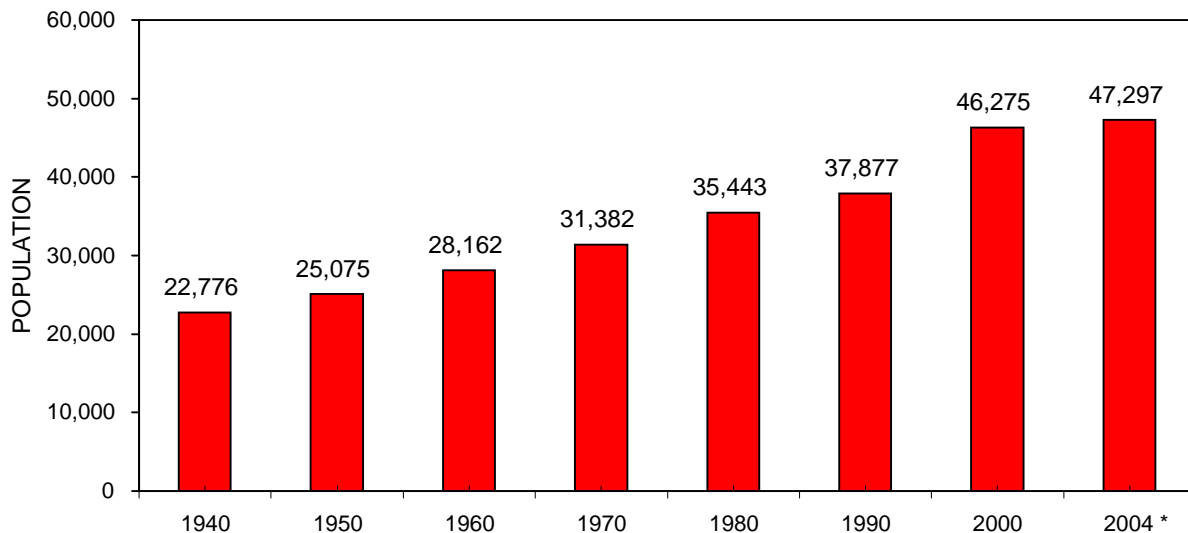
COUNTY & CITIES/TOWNS	1990 CENSUS	2000 CENSUS	2004 POPULATION ESTIMATES	NUMERICAL CHANGE FROM 2000-2004	PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2000-2004
NOBLE COUNTY	37,877	46,275	47,297	1,022	2.2%
KENDALLVILLE	7,773	9,616	9,995	379	3.9%
LIGONIER	3,443	4,357	4,407	50	1.1%
ALBION	1,823	2,284	2,320	36	1.6%

NOBLE COUNTY POPULATION

YEAR	POPULATION	NUMERICAL CHANGE	% CHANGE
1940	22,776	372	1.7%
1950	25,075	2,299	10.1%
1960	28,162	3,087	12.3%
1970	31,382	3,220	11.4%
1980	35,443	4,061	12.9%
1990	37,877	2,434	6.9%
2000	46,275	8,398	22.2%
2004 *	47,297	1,022	2.2%

* population estimate

NOBLE COUNTY POPULATION



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940-1990 Census and Stats Indiana 2000 Census and 2004 Population Estimate

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

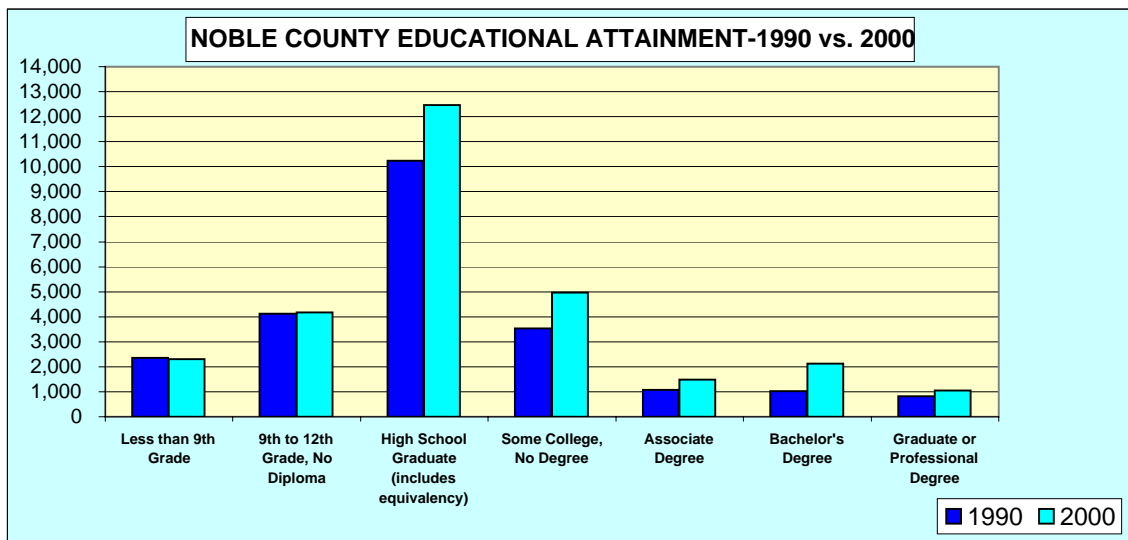
NOBLE COUNTY

2004 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES HIGHER EDUCATION INTENT

EDUCATION INTENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Graduates	481	100.0%
Total to Higher Education	326	67.8%
Four-Year Institution	240	49.9%
Two-Year Institution	56	11.6%
Vocation/Tech. Institution	30	6.2%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT - POPULATION 25 YEARS & OVER

EDUCATION LEVEL	1990	% IN 1990	2000	% IN 2000
Less than 9th Grade	2,350	10.2%	2,299	8.1%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	4,113	17.8%	4,169	14.6%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	10,240	44.2%	12,467	43.7%
Some College, No Degree	3,522	15.2%	4,960	17.4%
Associate Degree	1,066	4.6%	1,495	5.2%
Bachelor's Degree	1,036	4.5%	2,120	7.4%
Graduate or Professional Degree	824	3.6%	1,044	3.7%
TOTAL - POPULATION 25 YEARS & OVER	23,151	100%	28,554	100%



Sources: Indiana Business Research Center, Stats Indiana and U.S. Census Bureau.

COMMUTING PATTERNS

NOBLE COUNTY COMMUTING PATTERNS

Number of persons who live in Noble County and work (labor force)	29,520
Number of persons who live in Noble County and work in Noble County	21,358
Number of persons who live out of and work in Noble County	5,544
Total number of persons who work in Noble County (work force)	26,902

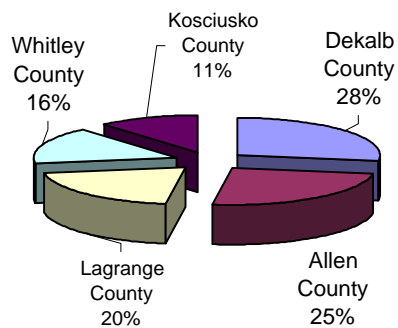
Top five counties sending workers INTO Noble County:

Dekalb County	1,280	
Allen County	1,136	
Lagrange County	947	
Whitley County	741	
Kosciusko County	531	
Total of above	4,635	equals 17.2% of work force

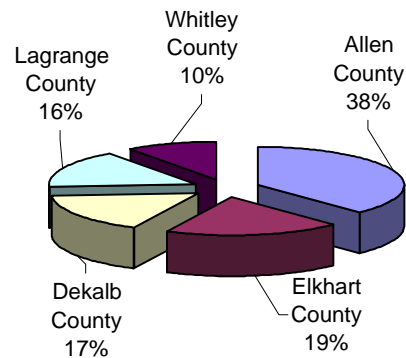
Top five counties receiving workers FROM Noble County:

Allen County	2,717	
Elkhart County	1,380	
Dekalb County	1,213	
Lagrange County	1,140	
Whitley County	723	
Total of Above	7,173	equals 24.3% of labor force

Top five counties sending workers INTO Noble County:



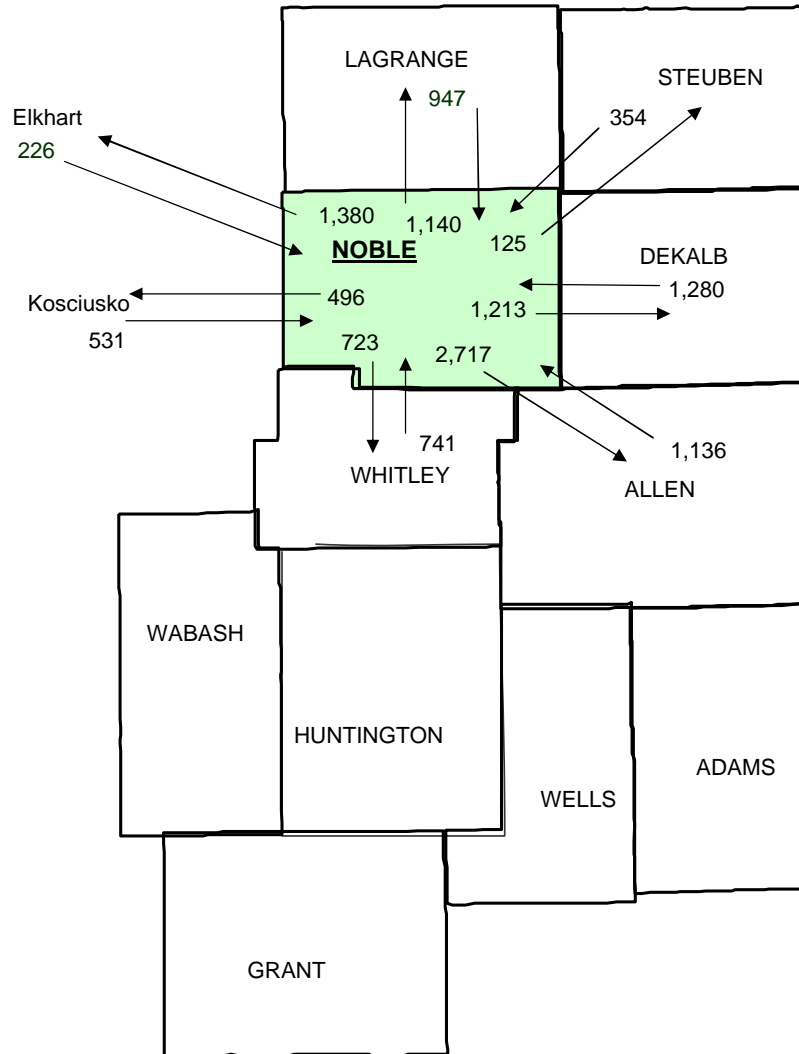
Top five counties receiving workers FROM Noble County:



Data source: Indiana Dept. of Revenue -- Based on IT-40 Returns for Tax Year 2003
Report generated by STATS Indiana on Jan. 26, 2005

COMMUTING PATTERNS MAP

NobleCounty



Data source: Indiana Dept. of Revenue IT-40 Returns for Tax Year 2003. Report generated by STATS Indiana, January 26, 2005. Counts of under 100 are not included. Commuters to/ from IL, MI, KY, OH, WI, and PA are reported separately and are not included in the 'Out of State' category.

LABOR FORCE INFORMATION

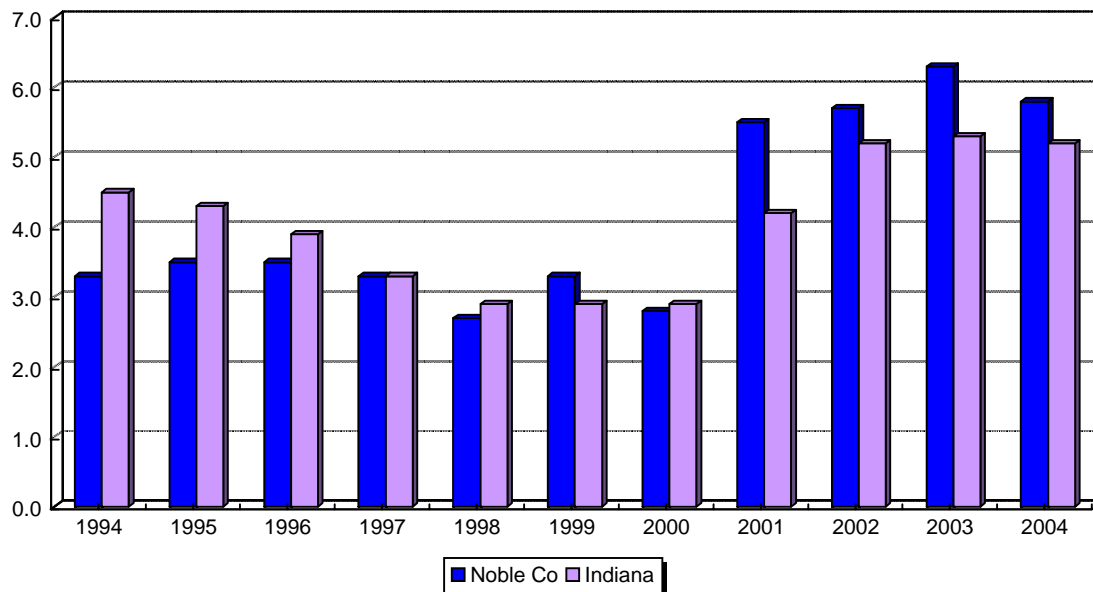
NOBLE COUNTY LABOR FORCE

(1994-2004)

	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	Noble Co RATE	Indiana RATE
1994	23,830	23,050	780	3.3	4.5
1995	24,550	23,690	860	3.5	4.3
1996	25,220	24,330	890	3.5	3.9
1997	25,040	24,220	820	3.3	3.3
1998	24,780	24,110	670	2.7	2.9
1999	24,690	23,870	820	3.3	2.9
2000	24,540	23,860	680	2.8	2.9
2001	24,000	22,680	1,320	5.5	4.2
2002	23,590	22,240	1,350	5.7	5.2
2003	23,670	22,190	1,480	6.3	5.3
2004	23,510	22,150	1,360	5.8	5.2

AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Noble County vs. Indiana 1994-2004



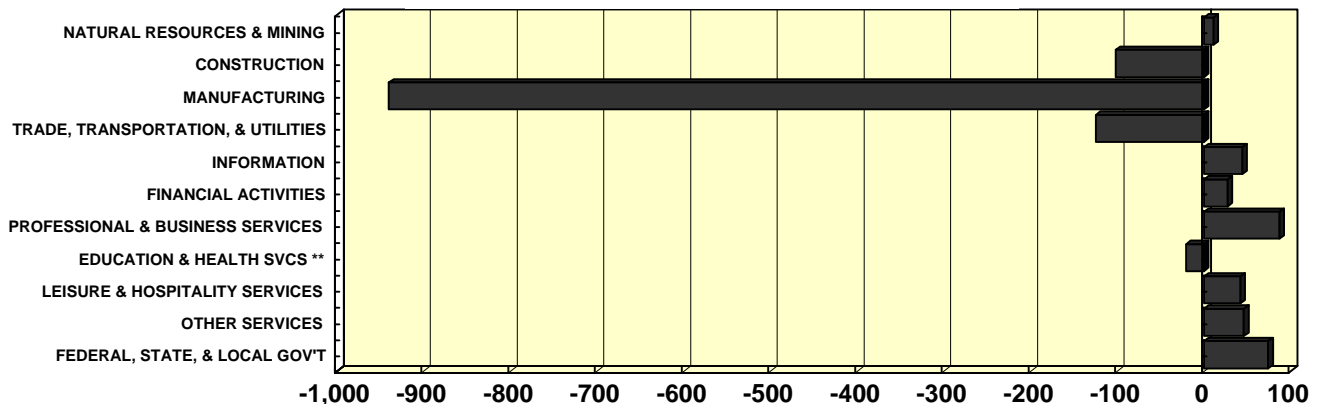
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Reflects new modeling approach and reestimation as of March 2005.

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

NOBLE COUNTY EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY 2001 to 2004

INDUSTRY SECTORS (NAICS)*	2004 NO. OF FIRMS	AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT				NUMERICAL CHANGE 2001-2004	PERCENT CHANGE 2001-2004
		2001	2002	2003	2004		
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT **	933	20,381	19,846	19,524	19,491	-890	-4.4%
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	17	157	148	143	168	11	7.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting Mining		<i>confidential</i> <i>confidential</i>					
CONSTRUCTION	95	602	579	520	500	-102	-16.9%
MANUFACTURING	159	11,075	10,485	10,247	10,135	-940	-8.5%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, & UTILITIES	196	2,118	2,030	2,039	1,993	-125	-5.9%
Wholesale Trade	50	376	293	317	298	-78	-20.7%
Retail Trade	123	1,473	1,436	1,398	1,490	17	1.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	19	205	239	261	143	-62	-30.2%
Utilities	4	64	62	63	62	-2	-3.1%
INFORMATION	9	271	327	325	315	44	16.2%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	78	324	327	346	351	27	8.3%
Finance & Insurance	47	243	245	243	243	0	0.0%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	30	81	82	103	108	27	33.3%
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	95	1,078	1,183	1,058	1,165	87	8.1%
Professional & Technical Services	58	252	285	267	289	37	14.7%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	4	187	207	174	147	-40	-21.4%
Administrative & Waste Services	33	638	691	617	729	91	14.3%
EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES **	73	2,442	2,445	2,410	2,421	-21	-0.9%
Educational Services **	16	1,248	1,299	1,292	1,331	83	6.7%
Health Care & Social Assistance **	57	1,194	1,147	1,119	1,091	-103	-8.6%
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY SERVICES	85	1,101	1,088	1,146	1,143	42	3.8%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12	76	81	90	79	3	3.9%
Accommodation & Food Services	72	1,025	1,007	1,056	1,064	39	3.8%
OTHER SERVICES	89	450	448	506	496	46	10.2%
FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	44	1,901	1,966	1,945	1,975	74	3.9%

Change in Noble County Industry Employment 2001 To 2004



* NAICS - North American Industry Classification System. ** Includes private and government employment in this industry.

Confidential = Data suppressed due to confidentiality restrictions.

Notes: 1. Data may not add to total due to rounding, suppression of confidential numbers, inclusion of unclassified data, and duplication of government employment numbers. 2. Industries listed are "private industry" unless otherwise noted.

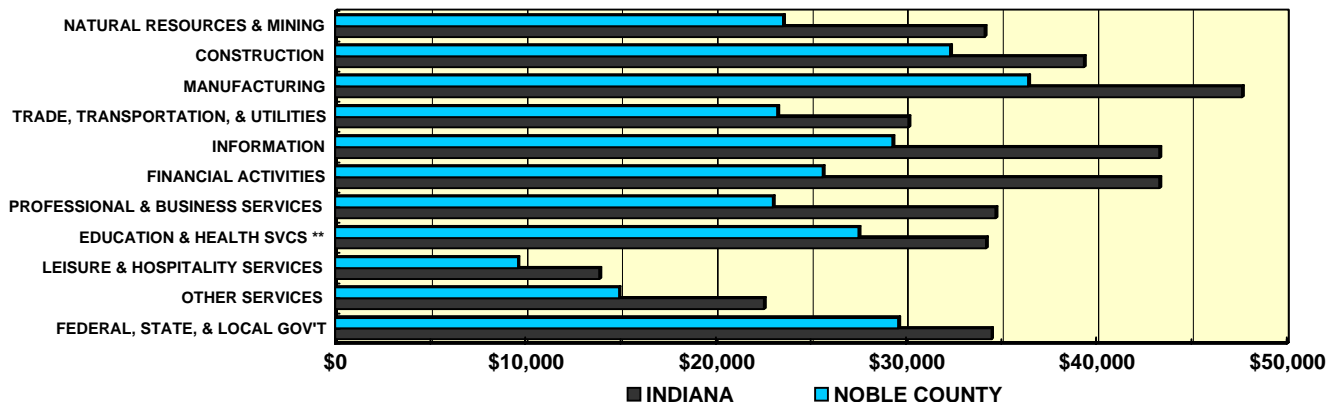
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Covered Employment

INDUSTRY EARNINGS

NOBLE COUNTY EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY 2001 to 2004

	NOBLE COUNTY						INDIANA	2004 NOBLE
	2001	2002	2003	2004	CHANGE 2001 to 2004		2004	% DIFFERENCE
INDUSTRY SECTORS (NAICS)*	WAGES	WAGES	WAGES	WAGES	DOLLARS	PERCENT	WAGES	FROM INDIANA
ALL INDUSTRIES **	\$28,131	\$28,936	\$29,613	\$30,141	\$2,010	7.1%	\$34,693	-15.1%
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	\$21,221	\$22,494	\$23,264	\$23,545	\$2,324	11.0%	\$34,117	-44.9%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	Confidential						\$25,490	
Mining							\$49,836	
CONSTRUCTION	\$30,709	\$29,866	\$30,898	\$32,326	\$1,617	5.3%	\$39,343	-21.7%
MANUFACTURING	\$33,103	\$34,682	\$35,495	\$36,415	\$3,312	10.0%	\$47,638	-30.8%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, & UTILITIES	\$21,791	\$22,738	\$23,655	\$23,247	\$1,456	6.7%	\$30,126	-29.6%
Wholesale Trade	\$28,580	\$33,485	\$34,253	\$35,537	\$6,957	24.3%	\$46,107	-29.7%
Retail Trade	\$17,929	\$18,172	\$18,981	\$18,976	\$1,047	5.8%	\$21,445	-13.0%
Transportation & Warehousing	\$27,513	\$28,856	\$28,233	\$27,823	\$310	1.1%	\$35,135	-26.3%
Utilities	\$52,440	\$54,114	\$55,061	\$56,455	\$4,015	7.7%	\$62,844	-11.3%
INFORMATION	\$26,618	\$26,690	\$26,437	\$29,273	\$2,655	10.0%	\$43,315	-48.0%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	\$23,529	\$24,694	\$24,650	\$25,628	\$2,099	8.9%	\$43,304	-69.0%
Finance & Insurance	\$26,952	\$28,170	\$29,117	\$30,103	\$3,151	11.7%	\$48,404	-60.8%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	\$13,242	\$14,232	\$14,107	\$15,527	\$2,285	17.3%	\$28,852	-85.8%
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	\$24,615	\$22,847	\$24,994	\$23,001	-\$1,614	-6.6%	\$34,701	-50.9%
Professional & Technical Services	\$26,412	\$28,471	\$30,270	\$30,890	\$4,478	17.0%	\$45,324	-46.7%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	\$56,031	\$45,230	\$45,573	\$46,257	-\$9,774	-17.4%	\$66,811	-44.4%
Administrative & Waste Services	\$14,695	\$13,835	\$16,897	\$15,175	\$480	3.3%	\$22,727	-49.8%
EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES **	\$25,071	\$25,308	\$26,234	\$27,518	\$2,447	9.8%	\$34,206	-24.3%
Educational Services **	\$27,972	\$27,845	\$28,662	\$28,928	\$956	3.4%	\$33,107	-14.4%
Health Care & Social Assistance **	\$22,040	\$22,434	\$23,431	\$25,797	\$3,757	17.0%	\$34,965	-35.5%
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY SERVICES	\$9,108	\$9,537	\$9,334	\$9,597	\$489	5.4%	\$13,875	-44.6%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	\$12,580	\$12,459	\$11,350	\$12,476	-\$104	-0.8%	\$25,802	-106.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	\$8,850	\$9,302	\$9,162	\$9,384	\$534	6.0%	\$11,574	-23.3%
OTHER SERVICES	\$15,315	\$16,513	\$16,329	\$14,911	-\$404	-2.6%	\$22,543	-51.2%
FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	\$27,866	\$28,057	\$29,054	\$29,594	\$1,728	6.2%	\$34,484	-16.5%

Noble County and State of Indiana 2004 Earnings Comparison



* NAICS - North American Industry Classification System. ** Includes private and government employment in this industry.

Confidential = Data suppressed due to confidentiality restrictions.

Notes: 1. Industries listed are "private industry" unless otherwise noted. 2. Wage data are annual averages.

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Covered Employment

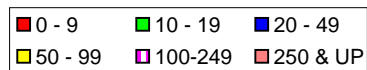
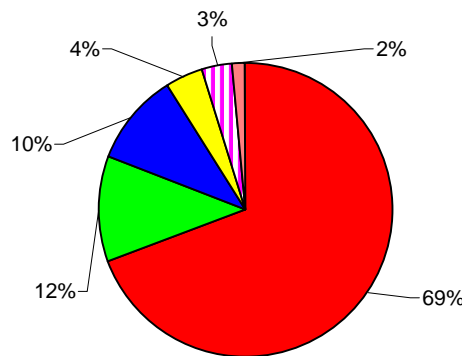
FIRMS & EMPLOYMENT by SIZE

NOBLE COUNTY FIRMS and EMPLOYMENT by SIZE

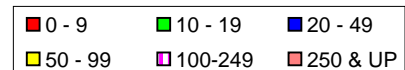
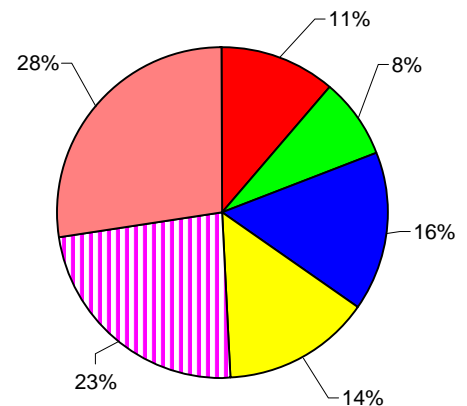
UNIT SIZE (Number Employed)	NUMBER of BUSINESS UNITS 1ST QUARTER 2004	EMPLOYMENT by BUSINESS UNIT SIZE MARCH 2004
0 - 9	642	2,158
10 - 19	110	1,512
20 - 49	96	2,986
50 - 99	39	2,737
100-249	29	4,471
250 & UP	14	5,247
TOTAL	930	19,111

Business Units with zero employees and Federal Government Employees are included.

**BUSINESS UNITS by SIZE
1st Quarter 2004**



**EMPLOYMENT by BUSINESS UNIT SIZE
March 2004**



SOURCE: Covered Employment, Research & Analysis, Indiana Department of Workforce Development



* * * * *

For over sixty years, industry information has been compiled using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. Since 1993, the industry data tables in this publication were classified by SIC.

Beginning with the 2002 issue of the Highlights report, new industry data tables are based upon the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Developed jointly by the United States, Canada and Mexico to produce comparable data, NAICS was introduced in 1997 to replace the SIC system. Because of its' scope and complexity, the transition to NAICS has taken three years to complete and is now effective beginning with 2001.

NAICS provides a more specific classification system reflecting the economy's changing industrial composition. NAICS focuses on *how* products and services are created, as opposed to the SIC focus on *what* is produced.

This reorganization has created breaks in the industrial classification time series. Even though, for example, the Manufacturing industry group is still listed, the current statistical data for Manufacturing may not be comparable to what was previously shown.

Example: An industrial machine company has its employment offices in a separate building. Those workers may now be listed in the Professional and Business Services industry under NAICS, rather than in Manufacturing. The same is possible for other industries.

NAICS uses a six digit hierarchical coding system to classify all economic activity. NAICS-United States allows for the identification of 1,170 industries compared to the 1,004 found in the SIC system. NAICS classifications are reviewed every three years. For purposes of this publication we will be classifying economic activities into 11 NAICS 'super sectors' and 15 NAICS sectors.

* * * * *

The following is a listing of the NAICS 'super sectors' we will be using:

Natural Resources & Mining includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining.

Construction

Manufacturing

Trade, Transportation & Utilities includes wholesale and retail trade, utilities, transportation, and warehousing.

Information includes publishing, motion pictures, sound recording, broadcasting, Internet publishing, telecommunications, ISPs, search portals, data processing, news syndicates, libraries, and archives.

Financial Activities includes finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing.

Professional & Business Services includes professional, scientific, and technical services, management of companies and enterprises, administrative/support, and waste management and remediation services.

Education & Health Services includes educational and health services, health care, and social assistance.

Leisure & Hospitality includes arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services.

Other Services includes repair, maintenance, personal, laundry services and religious, grant making, civic, social, and professional organizations and private households.

Federal, State & Local Government includes total government employment.

Economic Growth Regions

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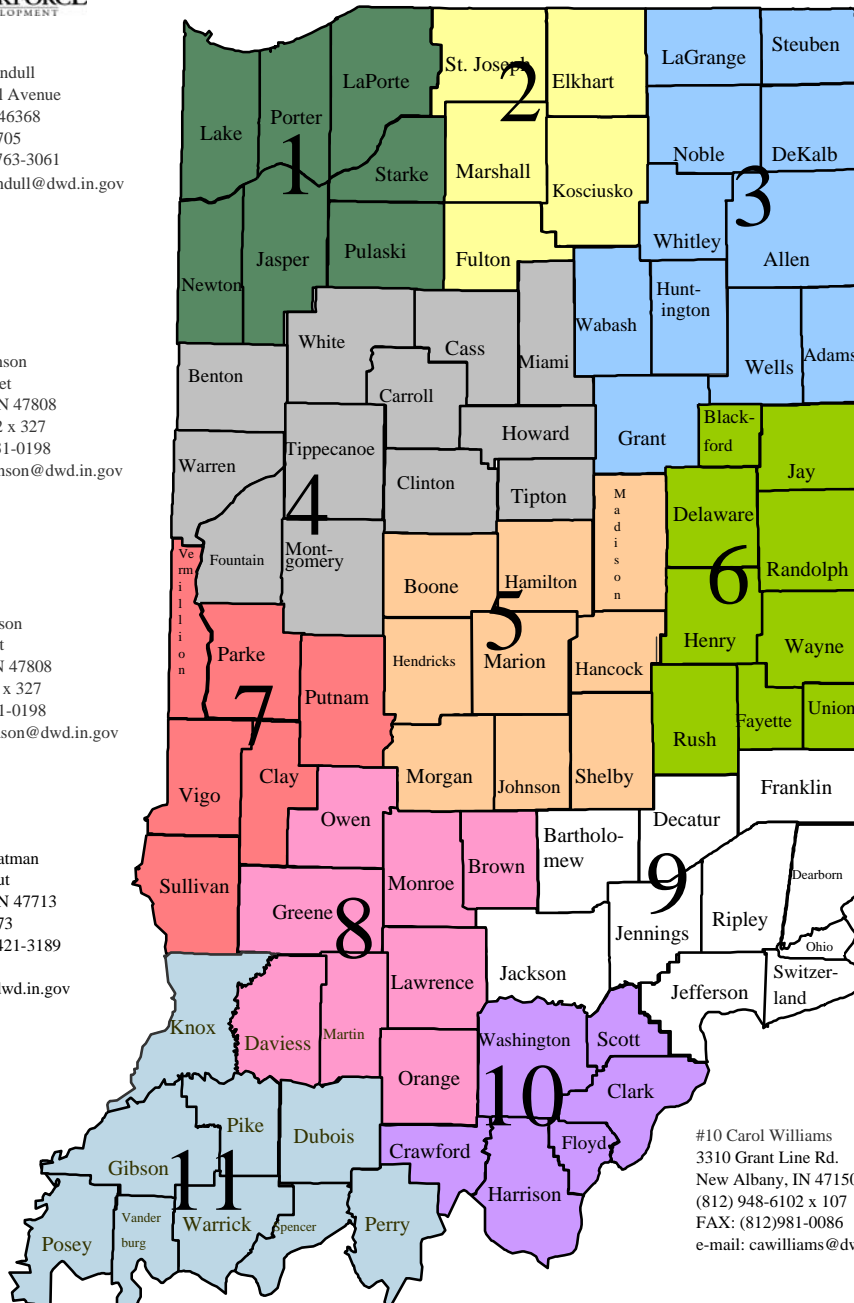
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